

REMARKS

Applicants have now had an opportunity to carefully consider the Examiner's comments set forth in the Office Action of November 26, 2003.

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

The Office Action

Claims 2-15 remain in this application. Claim 1 has been canceled.

Claims 1, 10, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Weng. (U.S. Patent No. 6,034,489)

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weng.

Claim 3 stands objected to under 35 C.F.R. 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form.

Claims 2, and 6-9 have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter

Claims 4, 5, and 12-15 have been allowed.

The Information Disclosure Statement

On September 3, 2003, the Applicant submitted an information disclosure statement for the Examiner's review (copy of date-stamped post card attached). Inadvertently, the IDS was submitted without references. Shortly thereafter, the references that were originally supposed to accompany the IDS were forwarded to the office on September 11, 2003 (copy of date-stamped post card attached). The office replied by return postcard verifying that it received the references on September 18, 2003. In the Examiner's most recent communication, he has indicated that the IDS of September 3 still fails to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2). As per the telephone conversation of January 20, 2004 with the Applicant, the Examiner has indicated that he never received hard copies of the references. Applicant is re-providing the six references as indicated in the original form PTO-1449 of September 3, 2003 to expedite prosecution. Applicant asks for acknowledgment of the Examiner's review of these references by checking off the attached PTO-1449 form being provided for the Examiner's convenience.

Claims 3, 6, and 8

The applicant notes that amendments to claims 3, 6, and 8 have been improperly submitted to the office. The dependencies of the aforementioned claims have been changed in the Applicant's Amendment A of September 3, 2003 without properly labeling them "currently amended," or without properly striking out and underlining removed and added

text, respectfully. The applicant notes, however, that claim 3 has been treated as if it was amended, and assumes claims 6 and 8 have been treated likewise. The applicant henceforth will treat claims 3, 6, and 8 as if they had been amended in the Applicant's communication of September 3, 2003, unless the Examiner has any objection.

The Amendment to the Specification

The amendment to the specification corrects a typographical error regarding a reference numeral. No new matter has been added.

The Claims Distinguish Over the References of Record

Claim 2, previously indicated as containing allowable subject matter, has been placed in independent form to include the subject matter from its base claim. It is therefore respectfully submitted that **claim 2** and **claims 3, 6-8, and 10-11** dependent therefrom are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 3 recites the limitation of a high frequency level shifting circuit, which is originally called out in claim 2. Claim 3 now depends from claim 2. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 3 is in proper dependent form.

Claim 4, previously indicated as being allowable, has been amended to eliminate a possible problem of antecedence. It is respectfully submitted that the amendment does not change **claim 4's** allowable status. Likewise, it is respectfully submitted that **claim 5**, and **claims 13-15** dependent therefrom are also still in condition for allowance.

Claim 9, previously indicated as containing allowable subject matter, has been placed in independent form to include the subject matter from its base claim. It is therefore respectfully submitted that **claim 9** is now in condition for allowance.

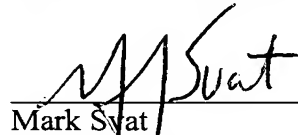
CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, it is respectfully submitted all claims remaining in the application (Claims 2-15) are now in condition for allowance. The foregoing comments do not require unnecessary additional search or examination.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he/she is hereby authorized to call Mark Svat, at Telephone Number (216) 861-5582.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,
MINNICH & McKEE, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MSvat", is written over a horizontal line.

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